

***NH Department of Health and Human Services  
Plan to Close the Cliff Effect for Individuals and Families  
who Receive Public Benefits Working Group  
Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, January 30, 2020

**I. Call to order**

Lisa English called to order the meeting of the Cliff Effect Working Group meeting at 3:00PM on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at NH Employment Security (45 S. Fruit Street, Concord, NH)

**II. Attendance**

- Chris Santaniello
- Lisa English
- Gene Patnode
- Christina Lachance
- Allison Joseph
- Susan Huard
- Representative Mary Jane Wallner
- Danielle Bishop
- Will Arvelo
- Deputy Commissioner Rich Lavers
- Commissioner George Copadis
- Chancellor Gittell, NH Community College System
- Anna Hamel
- Dee Pouliot
- Donnalee Lozeau
- Associate Commissioner Chris Tappan
- Senator Cindy Rosenwald
- Kim Runion

Absent: Christine Brennan, designee for Commissioner Frank Edelblut

Quorum is present

- The members of the workgroup approved the minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting.

**III. Around the Table** – attendees introduced themselves and discussed how their activities link to the Whole Families. Topics discussed included:

- National whole family approaches.
- Work developing vocational housing, short-term training apprenticeship and labor market.
- The choices parents and families face when facing the benefits cliff.
- Partnerships with businesses, community colleges, non-profits, and other stakeholders.
- Access to mental health care
- Community collaboration and support and services
- The impact the cliff effect has on children

**IV: Impacts of the Benefits Cliff on Upward Economic Mobility.**

- Anna and Allison shared stories of parents and families facing the cliff and the impact the benefits cliff has on those families.

**V: Elements of the Plan to Close the Benefits Cliff.**

- Lisa English presented the draft documents that will form the group's initial report.
- Group discussed the five components of the workgroup.
- Group discussed other stakeholders we will need to engage as we move forward.

**VI: Update on Econsult Work –**

- Rich updated the group on the progress of the analysis. Chris S. and Rich discussed the 35 communities that will be reviewed by Econsult.
- Econsult will be presenting at the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VII: Stakeholder Engagement/Communications: Feedback on PowerPoint**

- Add membership list and co-chairs leads and subgroups to the slides
- Discussing page 3 Economic Analysis Employment.

**VIII: Adjournment and Next Meeting**

- Next upcoming Workgroup Meeting and Econsult/NCCP will be attending Monday, February 10, 2020. Consider questions we may want to pose.
- Finalize the initial report to the legislature.

*Minutes submitted by: Margo Williams*

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